



Ministry
of Justice

Gender Recognition Certificate Statistics July to September 2013

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Executive Summary

This publication presents the latest statistics on applications for Gender Recognition Certificates that were received and dealt with by the Gender Recognition Panel in the quarter July to September 2013.

- The number of applications for Gender Recognition Certificates received in the period July to September 2013 was 73, in line with the average quarterly figure.
- Between July and September 2013, 107 applications were dealt with, a decrease of 4% compared to the previous quarter, and over double the number dealt with during this period last year. A full Gender Recognition Certificate was issued in 84% of cases; two thirds of which were issued to individuals who were registered male at birth, in line with the usual trend.
- Of the 158 interim Gender Recognition Certificates granted between 1st April 2005 and 31st March 2013, to date 71% have been converted to a full certificate.
- For those people that convert interim certificates to full certificates, the majority (60%) of people convert within 30 weeks.

Introduction

This quarterly bulletin presents summary statistics on Gender Recognition Certificates applied for and granted by the Gender Recognition Panel (GRP) during the quarter **July to September 2013**, along with quarterly data since April 2009. They are published by the Ministry of Justice, with assistance from officials at the GRP.

The GRP is part of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), which is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. The GRP is comprised of judicially trained legal and medical members and is supported by an administrative team. The panel sit in private and consider the documentary evidence supplied by the applicant in support of their application. More information about the work of HMCTS can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmcts.

Background

Under United Kingdom law, individuals are considered by the State to be of the gender – either male or female – that is recorded on their birth certificate. The Gender Recognition Act 2004, which came into effect on 4 April 2005, enables transsexual people to apply to the GRP to receive a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC).

An application for a GRC requires applicants to demonstrate that:

- They have, or have had, gender dysphoria.
- They have lived fully for the last two years in their acquired gender.
- They intend to live permanently in their acquired gender.

There are two application processes for obtaining a GRC:

1. **Standard track** applications are those submitted under the standard application process, on the basis of having lived permanently in the acquired gender for two years or more.
2. **Overseas track** applications are those submitted under the overseas application process, on the basis of having changed gender under the law of an approved country or territory outside the United Kingdom.

The overseas process requires applicants to demonstrate that they have been legally recognised in their acquired gender in a country or territory that is listed in the Gender Recognition (Approved Countries and Territories) Order 2011. The list is available on the Ministry of Justice website (www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/gender-recognition-panel/overseas-application-process). Under all circumstances, an applicant must also prove that they are at least 18 years of age at the date of application.

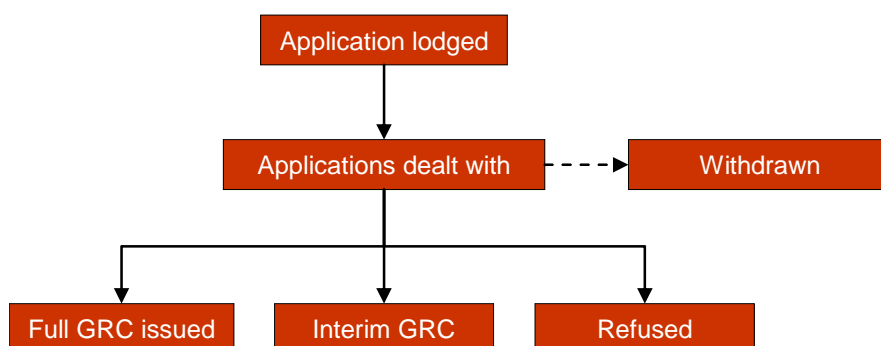
A full GRC issued by the GRP shows that a person has satisfied the criteria for legal recognition in the acquired gender. It is issued to a successful applicant if he or she is not married or in a civil partnership. From the date of issue, the holder's gender becomes the acquired gender for all purposes. Such individuals are entitled to all the rights appropriate to a person of their acquired gender, including the right to marry someone of the opposite legal gender, form a civil partnership with someone of the same legal gender, and to retire and receive state pension at an age appropriate to their acquired gender. A person whose birth was registered in the UK is able to obtain a new birth certificate showing their recognised legal gender.

An interim GRC is issued to a successful applicant if he or she is married or in a civil partnership at the time of the application. The interim certificate is issued to allow the applicant and his or her spouse or civil partner to end their marriage or civil partnership easily. It has no legal significance beyond this use. When the marriage or civil partnership is ended, a full GRC will be issued to the applicant. Please note, however, that the statistics for full certificates issued presented in this bulletin do not count those issued by a court subsequent to an earlier interim certificate; the statistics relate only to those full certificates which are issued in the *first* instance by the Panel.

On 17 July 2013 the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 received Royal Assent. This will, in due course, enable couples of the same sex to marry. In addition, the Gender Recognition provisions will enable some married applicants to receive a full GRC (rather than an interim GRC) where the couple indicate that they wish to remain married.

Figure 1 shows the stages of the GRC process. Note that the figures in the accompanying tables relate to the workload in the quarter July to September 2013 so the figures for receipts will not sum to the same total as the number of cases determined, as some of the determinations will relate to applications received in earlier periods.

Figure 1: The Gender Recognition Certificate process¹



¹ Applications may be withdrawn at any time of the process before the panel makes a final decision.

More information about the gender recognition process and the work of the GRP can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/gender-recognition-panel

Further information about the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 and when the changes might take effect can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/news/same-sex-marriage-becomes-law

Quarterly figures on the workload of all the tribunals run by HMCTS are published in the Official Statistics bulletin entitled 'Quarterly Tribunals Statistics', which is available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/tribunals-statistics

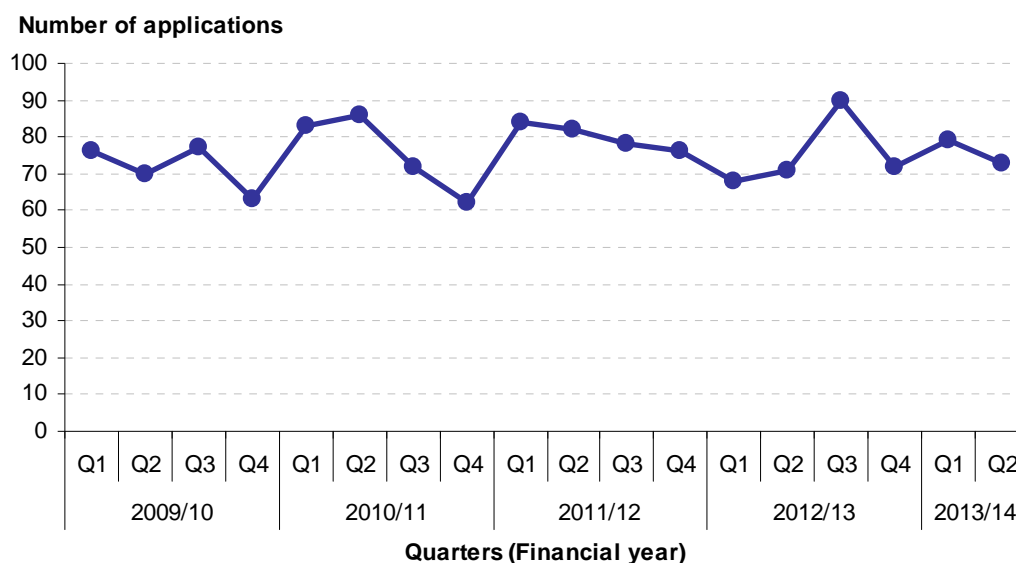
If you have any feedback, questions or requests for further information about this statistical bulletin, please direct them to the appropriate contact given at the end of this report.

Applications for Gender Recognition Certificates

A total of 73 applications were received by the Gender Recognition Panel (GRP) in the quarter July to September 2013 (see Tables 1 and 2). Overall, the number of applications has followed a broadly flat trend over the past four years (see Figure 2).

Of the 73 applications in the quarter, 68 (93% of the total) were 'standard track' applications, whilst a further 5 were 'overseas track' applications.

Figure 2: Applications received by the Gender Recognition Panel, April 2009 to September 2013



At the end of September 2013, a total of 46 applications were in progress awaiting final resolution, some of which are from earlier periods. This was a decrease of 42% from the previous quarter.

Initial outcome of applications (Table 1)

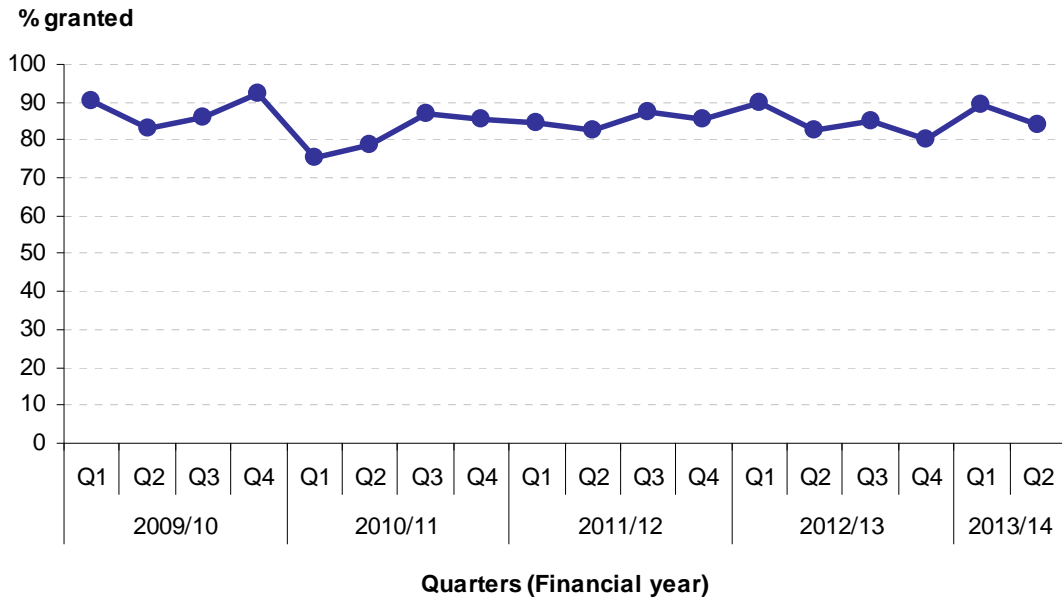
A total of 107 applications were dealt with by the GRP during the period July to September 2013, meaning that either a decision had been taken by the GRP to grant or to refuse a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC), or the applicant withdrew their application.

A full GRC was granted in 90 cases (84% of the total, see Figure 3), meaning that the person was judged by the GRP to have satisfied the criteria for legal recognition in their acquired gender.

There were 4 cases where an interim GRC was granted, which meant that the application was successful but the applicant was married or in a civil partnership at the time.

A further 10 applications were refused during July to September 2013, while 3 applications were withdrawn.

Figure 3: Proportion of applications dealt with where a full Gender Recognition Certificate was granted, April 2009 to September 2013



Gender Recognition Certificates granted – demographic statistics (Table 4)

There were 90 full Gender Recognition Certificates granted during the period July to September 2013. Of these, 62 certificates were granted to individuals who were registered male at birth (who thus legally became female as a result), while 28 were granted to individuals who were registered female at birth (see Figure 4).

Full Gender Recognition Certificates were granted to applicants of a range of ages. The highest number of certificates was granted to applicants born between the years 1970-1979 (see Figure 5).

Figure 4: Full Gender Recognition Certificates granted between July and September 2013, by gender

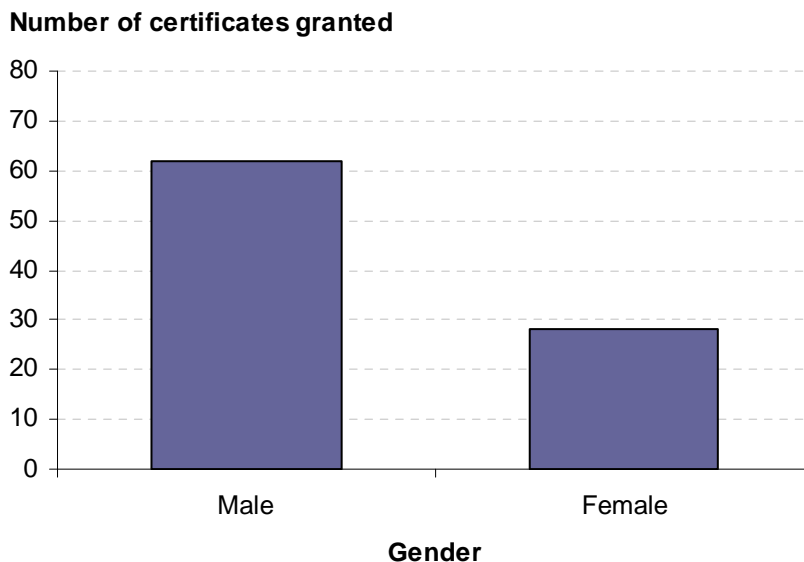
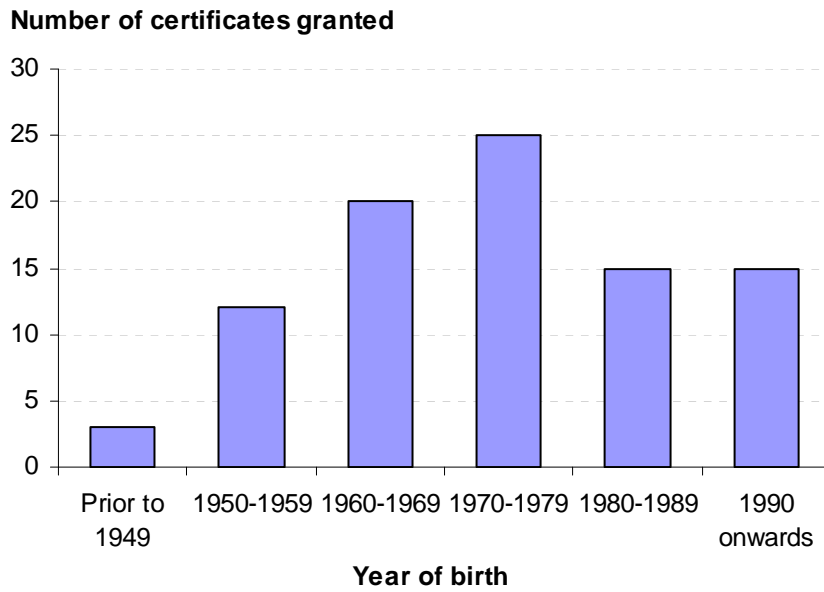


Figure 5: Full Gender Recognition Certificates granted between July and September 2013, by year of birth



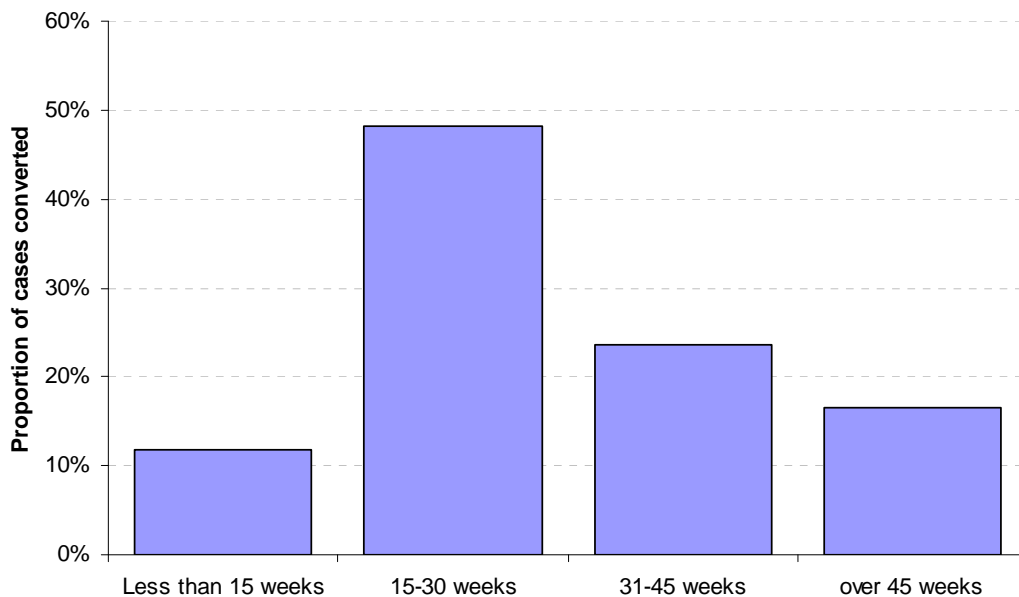
Conversion of Interim to Full Gender Recognition Certificates

This new analysis looks at the conversion of interim gender recognition certificates to full gender recognition certificates. This is based on cases where full details of the dates are available.

Between 1st April 2005 and 31st March 2013 there were 158 gender recognition certificates interim certificates issued (see Table 5). As of 30th September 2013, 71% of these had been converted to a full gender recognition certificate. Please note this proportion may change in subsequent periods as more data becomes available.

For those people that convert interim certificates to full certificates, the majority (60%) of people convert within 30 weeks.

Figure 6: Time for conversion from interim to full Gender Recognition Certificates between 1st April 2005 and 31st March 2013



Explanatory notes

Quality and consistency of the statistics

The figures presented in this report are collected from officials at the GRP. The data collected are quality-assured and validated in a process that highlights inconsistencies between quarters, and other areas. Checks are made to ensure that each month's data is arithmetically correct, with subtotals and grand totals correctly summed. Unusual values encountered are queried with the data supplier to confirm whether these are correct, or an error in the information provided which requires amendment. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented in this publication are accurate and complete.

Users of the statistics

The main users of these statistics are Ministers and officials in central government responsible for developing policy with regards to gender recognition. Other users include local authorities, other central government departments, and non-governmental bodies, including various transgender voluntary organisations. The statistics are used to monitor the number of applications received and dealt with by the GRP each quarter.

Contacts

Press enquiries on the contents of this bulletin should be directed to the HM Courts and Tribunals Service press office:

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Queries regarding the work of the Gender Recognition Panel should be directed to:

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